

Remarks

Claims 9, 11-13, 15, 17-30 are currently pending with claims 9, 15, 19, and 25 being the independent claims. Claims 25-30 have been added by amendment. More claims have been cancelled than have been added by amendment.

Claims 1, 6, and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,653,846 to Yamazaki et al. (“Yamazaki”). Claims 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,345,816 to Nakai et al. Claims 3-5, 7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,389,086 to Furusawa et al. (“Furusawa”) and/or U.S. Patent No. 4,593,969 to Goodman (“Goodman”). Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0146262 A1 to Byrd (“Byrd”).

I. Allowable Subject Matter—All Claims are In Condition for Allowance

Applicant appreciates the early indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter into each of the independent claims. Therefore, Applicant believes that all pending claims are currently in condition for allowance.

The Examiner gave two separate reasons for allowing the claims.

A. First Reason for Allowance

First, the Examiner indicated that “forming a cable seal using a bonding agent formed by placing a region of the cable in a mold and applying epoxy to the region for sufficient time to bond the epoxy to at least a portion of the metal-coated fiber....” was both novel and non-obvious. (See Office Action of Sept. 22, 2005 at 5.) This feature can now be found in independent claims 9, 19 and 25. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 9 and 11-13 as these claims are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, new claim 25 directed to a cable seal also includes “a bonding agent molded about the metal plated optical fiber, thereby creating a seal about the metal-plated optical fiber, the metal-plated optical fiber being disposed within a mold for sufficient time to bond the epoxy for a sufficient time to bond the epoxy to at least a portion of the metal-plated optical fiber.”

Thus, claim 25 also includes at least one feature that was determined to be allowable by the Examiner. Claims 26-30 depend from claim 25 and are allowable for at least this reason. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 25-30.

Claim 19 recites “an epoxy seal being molded about the metal plating of at least some of the optical fibers in the second region and extending partly into the first region and partly into the second region, after at least a portion of the second region has been placed in a mold for a sufficient time to bond the epoxy to the metal plating of at least some of the optical fibers.” Thus, claim 19 also includes subject matter that was indicated allowable by the Examiner. Claims 23 and 26-30 depend from claim 25 and are allowable for at least this reason. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 23 and 25-30.

B. Second Reasons for Allowance.

Secondly, the Examiner indicated that “a first conductive tube surrounding a first coated region, a second conductive tube surrounding at least a portion of a third coated region and a conductive housing surrounding at least a portion of a second un-coated region and the epoxy seal wherein the tubes and housing form a continuous conductive path....” This as requested by the Examiner, this feature has been incorporated into claim 15. Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15 and are allowable for at least this reason. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 15-18 as the claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office

Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bell, Esq. (Reg. No. 39,604)
Andrew R. Sommer, Esq. (Reg. No. 53,932)

Date: November 8, 2005

HOWREY LLP
2941 Fairview Park Drive, Box 7
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 663-3600